Barwon Valley News
26th November 2015

Diary Dates 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Four</td>
<td>5th October - 18th December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Award Ceremony</td>
<td>4th December - 10.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Support Group Christmas Lunch</td>
<td>8th December - 12.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Show</td>
<td>10th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Year BBQ</td>
<td>10th December - 5.30pm to 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation</td>
<td>14th December - 12.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of Term Four</td>
<td>18th December Early finish 1.15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>First day of Term One 2016</td>
<td>29th January 2016</td>
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BVS VISION

Our students will graduate as happy, confident individuals who do their best to communicate and interact positively with others, be as independent as possible and make their own choices, be actively involved in and contribute to their community, continue to learn and experience success in their future pathways.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

BYOD
In this week’s newsletter there is information regarding our school’s new ‘Bring Your Own Device’ (BYOD) program. This has been set up for families as an option if they would like to purchase a device for their children to use at school.

PERMISSION FORMS
The 2016 form giving permission to share information with other agencies, paediatricians etc. was not sent out with the packages to families this term. A copy of this is attached to this newsletter. Could all families please complete this and return to school as soon as possible? Thank you

eSMART
Another important article about cybersafety attached to this week’s newsletter.

Anne Hume
Principal
1st Highton Scouts, 43 Barrabool Road, Highton, 3216

1st Highton Scout Group is selling Christmas Trees during the first two weeks of December.

The trees are freshly cut the day of sale and as soon as they are delivered they are put in a bucket of water until sold. This means that the pines stay on the tree and don’t fall off.

Our trees are stored inside and not in direct sunlight. This keeps them fresh and healthy.

We had many happy customers last year and hope to see them and you this year at the Scout Hall on Barrabool Road.

Friday 4th 11th 5pm-------8pm
Saturday 5th 12th 9am-------4pm
Sunday 6th 13th 10am-----3pm

ALL TREES 7FT AND UNDER ONLY $50!

We also offer a post-Christmas collection service.
Barwon Valley School End of Year BBQ and ART Show

Date: Thursday 10th December
Time: 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Sausages will be ready at 5:30pm
A Special visitor will be arriving at 6:30pm

Junior Learning Community please bring sweets for everyone to share

Senior Learning Community please bring salads for everyone to share

Meat, bread, tea and coffee will be supplied
BYO Drinks

Performance by the Barwon Valley Movers.

Please return slip below for an indication of numbers by Tuesday 8th December.

________________________________________
Barwon Valley School End of Year BBQ and ART Show
Thursday 10th December

Student Name: ________________________________

Number Attending: Adults_________ Children__________
COMMUNITY NOTICES

Mini Masterchef’s Summer School Holiday program
Little Wren Cookery school are offering four sessions for children aged 5-12 years for children to come along for some wholesome fun and creative learning.
Enquiries: www.littlewrencookeryschool.com.au or email fun@littlewrencookeryschool.com.au

Muddy Boots and Sandy Hands meet on Sundays for bush walking, rock pool rambles and nature play.
For more information contact Danielle 0414 841 519 or visit the website www.mbsh.org.au/activities

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2016
UNITING CARE GEELONG

Uniting Care Geelong has limited funds to assist families in need to purchase uniform for 2016.

Students must be Secondary School age (turning 13 or older in 2016) and families need to hold a current Health Care Card or Pension Card.

If you require this service contact Sonya Gregorio, the wellbeing Support Officer for a referral.

You will then be directed to Phone Uniting Care Geelong on (03) 4210 1110 before the end of December to arrange an appointment. They are open before 12.00pm weekdays and they need to be let know you have been referred by Barwon Valley School.

Any queries please don’t hesitate to contact Sonya.

BARWON VALLEY SCHOOL ANNUAL ART SHOW

Barwon Valley School is holding our annual Art Show on 10th December.

Every student will have art work on display.

All Art work will be for sale for $10 each.
Please come along on this day and bring your family and friends.

This is a great opportunity to purchase an original Art piece to hang up in your home or to give to someone as a gift.
Alex is being our hot shots tennis coach as part of SPEC

Doe is doing making smoothie as part of her SPEC

Dylan is being a funny boy in Room 37 at Oberon High

Olivia is working hard

Aaron is doing wood work at Oberon high

Callum is borrowing a book

Charli is swimming in the BVS ALC

This page was created by Aaron McCallum
Hi Everyone,

This year’s BVS Parent Support Group Christmas lunch is being held on Tuesday 8th December, 2015 at the Belmont Hotel in High Street, Belmont from 12.00pm.

This is a great chance to catch up and celebrate the successes of the 2015 school year.

Please note, Barwon Valley is able to cover the cost of your meal on the day, but drinks will need to be purchased.

Please RSVP by Friday 4th December for booking purposes.

Hope you can make it!

Sonya Gregorio
Wellbeing Support Officer

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Barwon Valley School Parent Support Group Christmas Lunch

Yes I would like to attend the BVS Parent Support Group Christmas Lunch at 12.00pm on Tuesday 8th December, 2015 at the Belmont Hotel.

Names of people attending the PSG Christmas lunch: .............................................

........................................................................................................................................

Name of Student who attends BVS: ..........................................................

........................................................................................................................................

Please complete and return to Sonya Gregorio, Wellbeing Support Officer via your child’s communication book by Friday 4th December or contact the school on (03) 5243 1813 to confirm.
Stars of the Week

The following stars of the week will be given their award at whole School Assembly this Friday at 2:20pm.

Tyson (J04) - For great following staff directions.

Sam (J03) - For enthusiastic participation in sporting activities.

Claudia (J02) - For learning to play the keyboard in the music program with Ben.

Doh (S02) - For an outstanding attitude towards school.

Thomas (S22) - For doing fantastic work over in the canteen.

Teagan (S14) - For great listening and following instructions.

Cassie (S20) - For doing a great job at Work Experience.
BIKE PROGRAM

FREE

We have a supply of second hand children and adult bikes which have been restored and are road safe.

A new helmet and chain lock are also provided if needed.

Register for bike to Joan

Arrangement for bike to be collected from Oberon High School on Mondays 1.30pm – 3pm.

Partnership between Oberon High School and the Rotary Club of Belmont

For more information please contact Joan Watson
Mobile 0439 419900
Dear Parents/Guardians,

1:1 Mobile Bring Your Own Device program for 2016

OPTION of purchasing/leasing through JB HI Fi.

During 2014 and 15 we have been trialling a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program across the school. The implementation of this program has helped to support our students to learn functional skills and academic learning, and communication.

Families are encouraged/supported to have their child bring their own device to school as this allows the device to be individualised for student learning and for their communication. Any device chosen by parents is acceptable; however experience has shown that iPads have ease of use, ability to be used in the community and portability. They also have a range of Apps that support student learning.

The school council has approved extending the BOYD program further in 2016 through offering parents/carers the OPTION of purchasing/leasing devices through JB HI Fi.

The three options when bringing a device to school are:

Option A Bring device you already own

This option allows students to bring an existing device that they may already have.

Option B Purchase/lease a device from any retailer

This option allows you to purchase/lease your own device from any provider.

Option C Purchase/lease through JB Education

Parent Code: BarwonV52016

This option allows you to purchase/lease through JB Education online.

- iPad 2 (recommended)
- Choice of covers
- Insurance options

When bringing the device to school, we strongly recommend that you have insurance as this is not covered by the school. Personal Goods are Brought to School at Owner’s Risk and the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. Personal property includes such things as mobile phones, electronic games, toys, iPads, iPods and cars parked on the school premises. This also includes whilst travelling on the Student Transport buses.

Please refer to the BVS BYOD guidelines for further information and school/parent/student agreements.

If you have any queries, please contact Chris Benke, Assistant Principal or Anne Hume, Principal.
This week’s tip from the eSmart committee is developing common language around using the internet and ICT equipment. At Barwon Valley School we keep language consistent when using technology so that students understand the clear purpose of using the iPad, ICT device or internet.

*Common language used at BVS:*

**iPads for work**
This term is used when students are using the iPad/ICT devices to support and complete learning tasks that are teacher directed. The iPad/ICT device usage is guided by the learning task.

**iPads for choice**
This term is used when students are given time to work with the iPad or other ICT devices on an app or program of their choosing. A set time is placed on this type of iPad/ICT usage to support finishing behaviour.

*Tips for finishing behaviour:*
Finishing can be challenging for many people as it means that a favourite activity is being taken away or they have to move onto another task. It is important to prepare people for finishing and the eSmart committee has developed some handy hints that could be helpful at home.

Use visuals. This is a common visual used across the school and it is a clear direction that the activity has finished.

Use visual timers. This will provide your child with a visual of how long they have left using the device and they can prepare themselves to finish. A timer provides a consistent reminder and is a common tool used across the school.

A schedule can support a routine and provide predictability in the day. A child can move on from the iPad /ICT device as they know that they will get to use it again.

Having a set time every day for your child/ren to use iPads/ICT devices. There is a start and finish time that is consistent each day.

Use Common language such as “**First XXXX and then XXXX**” This strategy is used across BVS and is very effective.

*If you have any questions about eSafety or ICT usage please speak with your child/ren’s classroom teacher.*
Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Parent Payments 2016

The Barwon Valley School Council has approved the school’s parent payments policy.

This policy is attached for your information as well as the 2016 list of payment items/services for your child’s program.

All parent payments and contributions can be made by cash, cheque or debit/credit card at the school’s office. While payment is not required until the start of the 2016 school year we would appreciate payment by end of term 2 2016. Please contact Noelene Burney (Business & Finance Leader) if you are unable to meet this date. Any record of payments or contributions is confidential.

The school appreciates that families may sometimes experience financial difficulties in meeting payment requests. A range of support options are available to parents who have difficulty making payments including the Schoolkids Bonus, State Schools Relief Committee or the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund.

Families who do not have an immediate capacity to pay are also able to enter into alternative and confidential payment arrangements with the school. Should you require information about financial assistance please contact the school’s principal on 5243 1813.

Yours sincerely

Anne Hume
Principal

Meg Noorderbroek
School Council President
Parent Payment Policy

School councils are able to request payments or contributions for education items and services from parents and guardians for students in Victorian government schools in the three categories – essential education items, optional extras and voluntary financial contributions.

This policy ensures that:

- costs are kept to a minimum
- payment requests are clearly itemised under the three parent payment categories
- items that students consume or take possession of are accurately costed
- no student will be treated differently, denied access or refused instruction to the standard curriculum program for not making a payment or voluntary contribution
- access to enrolment or advancement to the next year level will not be withheld as a condition of payment for any of the three categories.

Barwon Valley School spends considerable time selecting the most appropriate items and services to meet the needs of our students.

Parents and guardians also have the option of purchasing equivalent materials from other sources. If parents and guardians choose to provide equivalent materials, this should be done in consultation with the school, as items should meet the specifications provided by the school. There may also be certain items that due to their nature may only be provided by the school.

Parent Payment Categories

Essential education items are those items or services that are essential to support the course of instruction in the standard curriculum program that parents or guardians are requested to pay the school to provide or may provide themselves, if appropriate.

These items include:

- materials that the student takes possession of, including text books and student stationery
- materials for learning and teaching where the student consumes or takes possession of the finished articles (e.g. home economics, photography, catering)

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- transport and entrance for camps and excursions which all students are expected to attend.

Optional extras
are those that are provided in addition to the standard curriculum program, and which are offered to all students. These optional extras are provided on a user-pays basis and if parents and guardians choose to access them for students, they will be required to pay for them.

These items include:
- student diaries
- school magazines
- wash cloths, blueys, powder, insect repellent, sun screen, first aid supplies, cleaning and disinfecting of school based items.

Voluntary financial contributions
are for those items and services that parents or guardians are invited to make a donation to the school, for example for grounds maintenance, a library or building trust.

Other support options

The school appreciates that families may sometimes experience financial difficulties in meeting requests for payments and contributions. A range of support options are available to assist eligible parents, including the Schoolkids Bonus, State Schools Relief Committee and the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund.

Payment arrangements

Parents and guardians will be provided with early notice of payment requests for essential education items, optional extras and voluntary financial contributions (e.g. a minimum of six weeks notice prior to the end of the previous school year).

Costs will be kept to a minimum with payment requests/letters fair and reasonable. To further assist parents with payments, four payment options have been developed:

Option A  Full amount at the beginning of Term 1
Option B  Payment at the beginning of each Term
Option C  Half yearly payment (beginning of Terms 1 & 3)
Option D  Other payment arrangements

Alternative payment options are available through the school and parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the Noeline Burney (Business & Finance Leader) to discuss circumstances and available options.

Payments may be requested but not required prior to the commencement of the year in which the materials and services are to be used.

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Payment requests to parents will be itemised and the category each item falls under will be clearly identified as an essential education item, optional extra or voluntary financial contribution.

Receipts will be issued to parents immediately upon making payment.

Reminders for unpaid essential education items or optional extras will be generated and distributed on a regular basis to parents, but not more than once a month.

Only the initial invitation for voluntary financial contributions and one reminder notice will be issued per year to parents and guardians.

All records of payments or contributions and any outstanding payments by parents and guardians are kept confidential.

This policy was ratified by School Council on

Date: 17/11/2015

Signed: ____________________________
School Principal

Signed: ____________________________
School Council President
Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find below information for 2016 School Charges. Barwon Valley School endeavours to keep costs for parents to a minimum.

**School Charges for 2016 are:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Primary (under 12 years)</th>
<th>$200.00 per year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARY &lt;12</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Essential Education Items</td>
<td>$140.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Extras</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Financial Contribution: Barwon Valley School Fund DGR (Endorsed Deductible Gift Recipient): (This is voluntary contribution and only this component is tax deductible for $2 or more)</td>
<td>e.g. $200.00</td>
<td></td>
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<th>Secondary (12 years and over)</th>
<th>$300.00 per year</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SECONDARY &gt;12</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Educational Items</td>
<td>$240.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Extras</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td></td>
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<td>e.g. $200.00</td>
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Students are charged for:

- **Essential Educational Items** - each student will receive stationery such as: a folder, diary, pencils, scrap book, at the beginning of each year. This charge also includes cooking ingredients, paper, glue, paint, photocopying, laminating sheets and other construction materials used for classroom lessons and booklets.

- **Optional Extras** - student diaries, school magazines, wash cloths, blueys, powder, insect repellent, sun screen, first aid supplies, cleaning and disinfecting of school based items.
  Other charges may apply during the year such as swimming, sailing, camps or special excursions. These activities are optional extras and parental consent will be obtained.

- **Barwon Valley School Fund** (Endorsed Deductible Gift Recipient) – Maintenance of school buildings, grounds and special projects. **This is a voluntary contribution and is tax deductible for $2 or more.**

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IMPORTANT PARENT PAYMENT INFORMATION FOR 2016

Camps Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)

In 2016, the CSEF amount is $125 for primary school students and $225 for secondary school students. Schools are required to use the CSEF payment for expenses relating to Camps, Sport and/or Excursions for the benefit of the eligible student.

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

on the first day of Term two, or;

on the first day of Term three;

a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR

b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;

c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

For those parents who are not eligible for the CSEF, commencing prepayments will help when excursions and camps are due.

We have set up CentrePay to assist families on a Health Care or Pension card.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Payment Options</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>How to set this up</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CentrePay        | Centrelink  will take payments out of your fortnightly benefit and give it to the school. This can be done as a once off or regularly. | You can apply for Centrepay deductions:  
| BPay             | Payment made directly to the school by using your Bpay Biller Code and Reference No. This can be done as a once off or regularly. | Statements will be sent home each term (this contains your BPay codes). |
| Cash, cheque, EFTPOS or credit card | Cash or cheques directly to the office. EFTPOS machine at the office. | Please do not send large amounts of cash in your child’s bag. Credit card payments need to be processed at the office or complete the payment slip below. We do not take credit card payments over the phone. |

_BVS VALUES:_  _TEAMWORK  RESPECT  FUN  DIGNITY  SUPPORT_
PREPAYMENTS

Making regular payments can greatly assist parents with payment costs during the year. It may be as little as $10 a week! Any spare money can be put on your account at any time. We can let you know approximately how much you need to pay regularly to cover your children’s yearly expenses.

Prepayments can be made by:

✓ Setting up CentrePay (forms available at the school office)
✓ Placing cash or a cheque in an envelope and sending it to school with your child
✓ Setting up regular BPay payments

Any prepayments are receipted against your account and then allocated off fees as needed.

ASSISTANCE

If you would like a payment plan made, specifically suited to your family to cover costs for the year, please contact the Principal or Business and Finance Leader.

Anne Hume
Principal

Payment Options: Cash / Cheque / Eftpos / BPay (see statement for details) (circle)

I will be paying $.................. for my child’s ..................................................
School Charges.

Signed: ............................................ Date: ...../...../20.....

I wish to pay the school charges using my Credit Card YES / NO

Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐

Card Number: _______ / _______ / _______ / _______

Expiry Date: ____ / ____ CCV: _________

Name on Card: _______________________________

Signature: ______________________ Telephone No: __________________

Please Note: We do not take Credit Cards payments over the telephone.

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